

## O.C. Spray

### Instructor Guide

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**Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Aerosol  
Subject Restraint/Control****Instructional Goals:**

The goal of this block of instruction is to prepare the officer, in the appropriate situation, using officer discretion choose the use "OC" aerosol spray to control a resisting suspect to legal custody in lieu of other intermediate range control techniques.

Prepare the officer to defend himself/herself when being threatened or attack by a suspect using "OC" aerosol spray or in a situation where he or another officer has sprayed the officer during an Incident.

**Instructional Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course by written examination and practical testing, the participate will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehension of where OC is place in the Reactive Control Model (RCM), and the corresponding levels of resistance where the application of OC is considered reasonable.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of normal symptoms involved in the application of OC aerosol spray, the spray patterns recommended, target areas and types/strengths of exhaustion (Coherent Stream, Burst/fogger or Conical mist) available.
3. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the OC aerosol projectors and other OC products (both mechanical and practical employment).
4. Demonstrated knowledge of the effect of OC and proper care and decontamination procedures.
5. During a practical exercise each student will be sprayed by a staff instructor and will demonstrate proper counter tactics to being attack, demonstrating good officer survival skills.

**Instructional Methods:** Lecture/power point presentation, demonstration and practice/exercise.

Handouts: Student Study Guide

Estimated Time: 3 hour

**Bibliography and Resources:**

Agent Brian Coss, Master Level Use of Force & Defensive Tactics Instructor, NMDPS Advanced Training Bureau

Tactical Force Institute, Oleoresin Capsicum Instructor/Trainer Course/manual, 1997 (attended by Jeff McCarthy)

Def-Tech Corp. 1995, attended by Tomm Kailey and Scott Blackledge, Consulting session by President of Def-tech

**Instructor Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the instructor attend and be certified by a nationally recognized training program in chemical agent control. Trained and/or certified as a "Use of Force Instructor"(RCM)

Prepared by: Brian Coss Date: November 2006

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

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## LESSON PLAN

### I. Introduction:

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC). OC is a force option in those encounters where it is clear that lethal force is not justified, and hand to hand techniques would be in-effective. OC provides a viable force option.

Training must be taken seriously as a student's training is normally the last "stop" before combat.

OC has been available since the late 1960's, when postal workers carried OC as a dog repellent. It was not till the 1980's pepper spray as a viable force option.

Initially, there were few detailed studies on the safety and effectiveness of OC, but in the ensuing years the FBI, IACP, NIJ and other credible organizations conducted, funded and directed numerous detailed studies on this subject.

Police agencies began documenting their data from actual encounters where OC was used. This experience and research has lead to the overwhelming conclusion that OC is a viable force option that has a clearly define place in the Reactive Control Model.

The prevailing case law on the subject of Chemical Irritants or O. C. are cited as follows:

A. *Headwaters Forest Defense v. County of Humbolt*, 240 F.3d 1185, 1199 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.) 543 U.S. 801 (2001)

B. *Jackson v. City of Bremerton*, 268 F.3d 646, 652-53 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.) 2001

C. *Monday v. Oullette*, 118 F.3d 1099 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir.) 1997

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- II. History and Development
    - A. The Chinese are attributed with the first tactical use of pepper over 2,000 years ago.
    - B. Various configurations of pepper were used periodically up through the Civil War.
    - C. The U.S. Military developed the original OC compound around 1930, but were unable at that time to develop an effective delivery system.
    - D. During the 1970's a number of OC units were developed by several manufacturers.
    - E. OC was first introduced to law enforcement in 1976 and tested and approved for use by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1989.
  
  - III. Characteristics of Aerosol Sprays
    - A. CN: Chloro-aceto-phenone
      - 1. Description: Lachrymator
      - 2. Color Code: Red
      - 3. Symptoms
        - a. 15-20 seconds to act
        - b. Low potential for control
        - c. Low potential for injury
        - d. Mild panic
        - e. Mild tearing
        - f. Tightness in chest
        - g. Pain
        - h. Mild nausea
  
    - B. CS: Ortho-chloro-benzal-malononitrile
      - 1. Description: Irritant
      - 2. Color Code: Blue
      - 3. Symptoms
        - a. 20-60 seconds to act
        - b. High potential for control
        - c. Low potential for injury
        - d. More intense panic
        - e. Involuntary closing of the eyes
        - f. Severe pain
        - g. Uncontrolled coughing
        - h. Mild to intense panic
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C. OC: Oleo-resin Capsicum

1. Description: Inflammatory
2. Color Code: Orange
3. Symptoms:
  - a. Rapid effect
  - b. High potential for control
  - c. Low potential for injury
  - d. Intense pain
  - e. Loss of will to fight
  - f. Involuntary closing of the eyes
  - g. Loss of balance
  - h. Loss of coordination
  - i. Loss of strength

D. Acceptability of OC vs. CN or CS

1. OC attacks low level physiological responses not related to the central nervous system
2. Works on animals such as dogs that do not have "tear ducts"

IV. Methods of Exhaustion

A. Coherent Stream

1. Tight spray pattern
  - a. Greater distance
  - b. Target specificity
  - c. Lower potential for cross-contamination
  - d. Difficult to hit with under stress
  - e. Powerful spray, may cause damage to eyes if used within three feet of subject

B. Burst/Fogger

1. Wide spray pattern
  - a. Cloud of agent that suspects can "run into" in dynamic situations
  - b. Easier to hit with under stress or on animals
  - c. Shorter range
  - d. Large area effected
  - e. Higher potential for cross-contamination

- C. Conical Mist
  - 1. Cone shaped spray pattern
    - a. Compromise
- V. Carrying Method
  - A. Weak Side (Recommended)
    - 1. Weak hand draw/activation
      - a. Thumb activation
    - 2. Weapon hand free
    - 3. Container top down (If possible)
- VI. Spray Positions
  - A. Tuck Position
    - 1. Spray hidden behind leg
      - a. Thumb on activator
  - B. Loaded Position
    - 1. Check Level
      - a. Thumb on activator
    - 2. Strong arm up
    - 3. Verbalize (Don't make me spray you!)
    - 4. Show of force before use of force if feasible
  - C. Firing Position
    - 1. Spray extended (Retention consideration)
      - a. Spray Patterns
- VII. Target Areas
  - A. Face
  - B. Eyes (try to avoid continuous direct spray to eye contact)
  - C. Nose
  - D. Mouth
- VIII. Spray Patterns
  - A. Horizontal sweep
  - B. Vertical sweep
  - C. Kris-cross sweep (X pattern)
- IX. Duration
  - A. .5-1 second burst
  - B. 2 bursts

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- X. Spray Retention Techniques
    - A. 3 Step Process
      - 1. Secure
        - a. Use both hands first
      - 2. Position
        - a. Step outside, counter angle
      - 3. Release
        - a. Forearms strikes
        - b. Elbow lifts
    - B. Counter Spray Techniques
      - 1. Disengage
        - a. Hold your breath
        - b. Turn your head
        - c. Close your eyes
        - d. Block to outside and pass behind
      - 2. Turn and escape
    - C. Disarming Techniques
      - 1. Smother canister
      - 2. Push down
      - 3. Circle arm around into wrist lock
        - a. Choose appropriate alternative force option
  - XI. Care
    - A. Secure suspect
    - B. Decontaminate the suspect
      - 1. Remove from contaminated area
      - 2. Face into the wind
      - 3. Avoid rubbing of eyes or face
      - 4. Blow nose ("farmers" method)
      - 5. Remove contacts
      - 6. Flush face with copious amounts of cool water as soon as feasible (water too cold will cause shortness of breath, warm water will open pores and aggravate symptoms)
      - 7. Wash affected areas with de-greasing dish soap and water if possible
      - 8. Change clothes if possible
      - 9. Observe subject closely, if symptoms persist for more than 15 minutes or the subject request it, seek medical attention immediately. When in doubt, call for an ambulance to evaluate the subject. Do not leave the subject unattended until the symptoms have lessened
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- 10. Watch for other medical conditions that may arise while in custody
    - a. Positional Asphyxia
    - b. Aspiration of vomitus
    - c. Heart attack
  - 11. Render appropriated first aid
    - a. CPR
  - C. Prior consultation with ER personnel may alleviate confusion should subject be taken to hospital. Provide ER personnel with MSDS sheets ahead of time so they can agree with treatment procedures. Always keep in mind the potential of contaminating an entire Emergency Department by introducing a subject who has been sprayed with O.C. into the E.D.
  - XII. Documentation
    - A. A completed Incident report should include the chemical agent used, dosage amounts, duration (s) and care rendered
  - XIII. Conclusion
    - A. The use of aerosol spray, specifically OC has repeatedly shown subjects can be controlled with less force used by officers, and fewer injuries to both officers and subjects. Proper training on O.C. sprays gives the officer in the field another effective force option.
  - XIV. Practical exercise
    - A. Each student will be dressed with duty gear/control options such as inert weapon, inert baton, holster, handcuffs, etc. and be "OC" sprayed by instructional staff.
    - B. The student will be control the pain and involuntary reaction to the OC and will control (RCM) a simulated attack by a designed student.
    - C. The student will then demonstrate proper decontamination techniques to each other and self.
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## SAFETY CONSIDERATION:

Designated Safety Officer, pre-designate a “Stop all action” code word such as; “Stop Scenario”, which bring all actions to an immediate halt. Decontamination equipment would include a large volume of fresh water supply, such as water hoses, paper towels, de-greasing dish washing soap.

- **If a student has had recent (within the last 90 days) lasik eye surgery, the student should not be sprayed and rescheduled for a later class.**
- **Have students remove their contact lens prior to O.C. exposure.**

INSTRUCTOR RATIO: 6:1

AUTHOR & ORIGINATION DATE: Brian Coss November, 2006

## ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTOR NOTES

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Instructor Notes:

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## **COURSE AUDIT**

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR:

SECONDARY INSTRUCTOR:

SUPPORT STAFF (i.e.: Scenario Managers, Role Players, etc):

DATE(S)/ TIME(S) OF INSTRUCTION:

LOCATION OF INSTRUCTION:

RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM CHANGES: Identify inaccurate information, outdated information, new information to be added to update material, etc. (Use additional pages if necessary)

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS: